



## Voter Registration & Voting

### Voter qualifications

To register to vote in the state of Washington, you must be:

- **A citizen of the United States**
- **A legal resident of Washington state**
- **At least 18 years old by Election Day**

If you have been convicted of a felony, you must have your rights restored before you register to vote.

In the state of Washington, you do not have to register by political party.

### Registration deadlines

You can register to vote by sending in a completed Mail-in Voter Registration Form at least thirty days before a primary or election. Additionally, you may register in person by going to your county elections department up to fifteen days before a primary or election.

If you have moved or changed your name, you may use the Mail-in Voter Registration Form to update your existing voter registration.

### Change of residence

If you move to a **new** county, you must complete a new voter registration.

If you move within the same county, you do not need to re-register, but you must request a transfer of your registration. This can be done by using a Mail-In Registration Form, or by calling or writing your county elections department.

*NOTE: You must transfer your registration at least **30 days** before the election to be eligible to vote in your new precinct.*

### Keep your registration up-to-date!

If we do not have your current name or address, you may not be able to vote in the next election. Use the Mail-In Registration Form to send your name or address change.

### Voting by absentee ballot

Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot. You do not need to be ill or "absent" to be an absentee voter.

You may request an absentee ballot as early as 90 days before an election. (No absentee ballots are issued on Election Day except to hospitalized voters or replacement ballots for lost or destroyed absentees.) **The request for an absentee ballot must be made to your County Auditor or elections department.**

## Using the Mail-In Voter Registration Form

You can use the Mail-In Registration Form to:

- Sign up to vote in Washington state
- Update your registration if you move to a new address or change your name
- Apply to become an ongoing absentee voter

Please complete all sections. Once you have signed the completed form, place it in an envelope and mail it to:

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
VOTER REGISTRATION BY MAIL  
PO BOX 40230  
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0230**

If you are qualified and the information on your form is complete, you will be mailed a voter registration card which will identify your voting precinct.

**Important** – See the "Registration Deadlines" and "Change of Residence" sections at left.

One-time absentee ballot requests may be made either by phone, fax or mail. You may also sign up to automatically receive an absentee ballot before each election. Just check the "Yes" box in the Ongoing Absentee Voter Request section of the Mail-In Voter Registration Form.

NOTE: Absentee ballots must be signed, postmarked, or delivered to the county election officer **on or before Election Day**.

**Questions?** Information and assistance is available online at <http://www.secstate.wa.gov> or through the Secretary of State's toll free Voter Information Hotline at **1-800-448-4881** (TDD 1-800-422-8683).

You can find your County Auditor or County Elections Department under Government Listings in your telephone directory, or see the County Auditors List on the Secretary of State's web site: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/>

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